

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 PM-03

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9123

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF CVIS LE IZ

SUBJ: REFUGEES IN BEIRUT

REF:BEIRUT A-211 OF OCT. 30, 1974

1. MISSION SHARES CONCERN OF AMEMBASSY BEIRUT OVER BLEAK
OUTLOOK REFUGEE SITUATION BEIRUT AS REPORTED REPAIR.

2. VIEW LARGE BACKLOG AND CONTINUING HEAVY INFLUX OF REFUGEES
INTO LEBANON WHO PRIMA FACIE ELIGIBLE FOR US IMMIGRATION UNDER
SECTION 203(A)7 OF INA INCLUDING MANY USRP ELIGIBLES, MISSION
STRONGLY RECOMMENDS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN QUANTITY OF
203(A)7 NUMBERS MADE AVAILABLE BY INS FOR BEIRUT PROGRAM.
WE BELIEVE ADEQUATE NUMBERS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON
REGULAR RATHER THAN AD HOC BASIS. MISSION FURTHER RECOMMENDS
THAT INS STAFF IN AREA BE STRENGTHENED SUFFICIENTLY TO MEET
REQUISITES THIS PROGRAM. SINCE REFUGEE PROBLEM BEIRUT IS
SIZEABLE AND OF CONTINUING NATURE, WE BELIEVE THOUGHT
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF INS STAFF TO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT RAHER THAN PERIODIC VISITS BY INS
OFFICER FROM ATHENS AS IS PRESENTLY THE PRACTICE.

3. HAVING SAID THIS, MISSION BELIEVES REFUGEE PROBLEM
BEIRUT IS ONE WARRANTING INTEREST AND CONCERN OF INTER-
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NATIONAL COMMUNITY RATHER THAN MERELY USG. ACCORDINGLY,

WE FEEL THAT UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) SHOULD ASSUME MORE ACTIVE ROLE CONNECTION THIS PROBLEM. AT PRESENT UNHCR CONCERNS ITSELF MAINLY WITH PROTECTION OF REFUGEES IN LEBANON AND PROVIDES ONLY LIMITED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE UNHCR'S REGULAR PROGRAM.

4. MISSION APPRECIATES THERE MAY BE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TEMPERING GOL'S POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THIS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY RESPECT REFUGEES FROM IRAQ AND EGYPT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF GOL WOULD BRING PROBLEM TO ATTENTION UNHCR AND OFFICIALLY REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THAT OFFICE IN SEEKING SOLUTION. SUCH A MOVE WOULD SET INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY INTO MOTION; THUS COSTS OF CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEES MIGHT BE BORNE FROM INTERNATIONAL FUNDS RATHER THAN MERELY (OR MOSTLY) USG, AND GREATER EFFORTS COULD BE MADE TO FIND PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES NOT MERELY USA. IF SUCH REQUEST WERE FORTHCOMING FROM GOL AND UNHCR, MISSION COULD, SUBJECT TO WISHES OF DEPARTMENT AND AMEMBASSY BEIRUT, ENCOURAGE UNHCR TO BE RESPONSIVE. EVENT SUCH OFFICIAL REQUEST RECEIVED, UNHCR COULD NO DOUBT BE PERSUADED TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR REFUGEE PROBLEM IN LEBANON IN OFFICE'S REGULAR PROGRAM.

5. FYI: IT IS SOMEWHAT ANALOGOUS THAT PROBLEM OF 100,000 KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ IN IRAN WAS THOROUGHLY VENTILATED TO GOOD ADVANTAGE AT RECENT SESSION UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN GENEVA. ALTHOUGH IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REQUESTED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FROM UNHCR FOR THESE REFUGEES, THEY HAD OFFICIALLY REQUESTED UNHCR ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING PROBLEM PREFERABLY THROUGH REPATRIATION. THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF IRAQ AND THE RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY OF IRAN ARE NOW IN CONTACT FOR PURPOSE PROMOTING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF KURDISH IRAQIS UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION. REPORTEDLY IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT THEIR AMNESTY LAW WOULD BE APPLIED TO ANY RETURNEES. DALE

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